

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A method for preventing special service call fraud in a telephone network comprising the steps of:

- 5 a) maintaining at least one record, each record associated with a special service call number;
- b) adding an originating number identification to a record; and
- c) blocking all calls to a terminating special service call number, when an origin of the special services call is indicated by the originating number identification in
- 10 the record associated with said special service call number.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one record of step (a) is maintained in a Service Management System (SMS) database.

15 3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the originating number identification is an Automatic Number Identification (ANI).

4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the terminating special service call number is an "800" number.

20 5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises the steps of:

 selecting at least one threshold for suspicious activity;

monitoring calls on the network;

placing the originating number identification in the record of a terminating special services call, when network activity associated with the originating number surpasses said at least one threshold in relation to the terminating special services call.

6. A method for preventing special service call fraud in a long distance telephone system, said telephone system connected to Local Exchange Carriers (LECs) for carrying local telephone traffic, comprising the steps of:

- a) maintaining at least one record, each record associated with a terminating special service call number;
 - b) adding an identification of a number originating in a LEC to a record;
- and
- c) blocking all calls to a terminating special service call number, when an origin of the special services call is indicated by the originating number identification in the record associated with said special service call number .

7. The method as recited in claim 6, further comprising the step of:
routing the special service calls through the long distance telephone system to a bridge switch, said bridge switch being under the control of a call processing platform, said call processing platform performs the blocking of step (c).

8. The method as recited in claim 6, further comprising the step of:

routing the special service calls through the long distance telephone system using at least automated switch, said automated switch under the control of an automatic switching and routing control system.

5 9. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the automatic switching and routing control system is Signaling System 7 (SS7).

10 10. A device for preventing special service call fraud in a telephone system, comprising:

15 a database for maintaining at least one record, each record associated with one special service call number;

 means for entering originating number identifications into said records;

and

 means for blocking a special service call, said special service call having an originating number corresponding to an originating number identification in the special service call number record.

 11. The device as recited in claim 10, wherein the means for blocking further comprises:

20 means for retrieving and storing said records from said database;

 means for contacting said means for retrieving and storing, for extracting information from said means for retrieving and storing, and for sending said information to at least one switch; and

at least one switch for switching calls, for receiving said information from said means for contacting, and for blocking special service calls when said information indicates to do so;

wherein, when a special service call is made from an originating number to a corresponding special service call number, and a record for the corresponding special service call number has an originating number identification corresponding to said originating number, the information sent to the at least one switch indicates to block the special service call.

12. The device as recited in claim 11, wherein the database is a Service Management System (SMS) database, the means for retrieving is a Service Control Point (SCP), and the means for contacting is a Service Switching and Control Point (SSCP), in a Signalling System 7 (SS7) network.

13. The device as recited in claim 10, wherein the means for blocking further comprises:

an Intelligent Services Network (ISN) platform for retrieving and storing said records from said database; and

an Automatic Call Distributor (ACD), under control of the ISN platform, for routing and switching special service calls, and for blocking special service calls, when said special service calls have an originating number that corresponds to an originating number identification in a special service call number record.

14. The device as recited in claim 10, wherein the means for entering
originating number identifications into said records further comprises:

a fraud control console;

wherein alerts are generated when network traffic exceeds at least one threshold,

5 and said generated alerts are reported to said fraud control console.

15. The device as recited in claim 10, wherein the means for entering
originating number identifications into said records further comprises:

an automated fraud control program for determining whether an originating
10 number identification should be entered into said records when network traffic exceeds at
least one threshold.

16. The device as recited in claim 10, wherein the database for maintaining at
least one record is a Service Management System (SMS) database.

17. The device as recited in claim 10, wherein the special service call number
is a "800" number.

18. The device as recited in claim 10, wherein the originating number
20 identification is an Automatic Number Identification (ANI).

19. The device as recited in claim 10, wherein the telephone system comprises
at least one Local Exchange Carrier (LEC) and an Inter-exchange Carrier (IXC).

20. The device as recited in claim 19, wherein the IXC includes the database for maintaining at least one record, the means for entering originating number identifications, and the means for blocking a special service call; and the at least one LEC

5 has at least one originating number.